

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: C. Keith Attorney Docket No.: 125462  
Application No.: 09/801848 Art Unit: 3693 / Confirmation No.: 1156  
Filed: March 8, 2001 Examiner: K.L. Bartley  
Title: PLATFORM FOR MARKET PROGRAMS AND TRADING PROGRAMS

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION

Examiner Bartley,

Thank you for arranging a telephone interview for tomorrow, December 29, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. EDT. In advance of the interview, I have prepared a further amended claim 1 that I think addresses the issues and places the claim in condition for allowance. I would propose to discuss this claim amendment with you. If agreement is reached, I would incorporate similar amendments in the remaining independent claims. I look forward to talking with you.

1. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading using a computer system, comprising:

~~executing, during an overlapping time interval on a computer system, providing, via a computer system, at least two markets during an overlapping time interval, wherein each of the at least two markets is provided by a respective market process comprised of computer executable instructions that are executing on the computer system, wherein each of the market processes having provides a distinct and separate market and implements a respective market methodologies methodology, wherein the at least two market processes are computer software processes executing on the same computer system, and wherein each of the market processes provides a distinct and separate market and is configured to pair orders received from buying and selling trading processes for trading items specified in the orders[, and]];~~

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executing, on the computer system, a receiving an order by one of the market processes,  
wherein the order is available for pairing by the one market process and during the overlapping  
time interval, the same order is also available for pairing by another of the market processes;

conditionally pairing the order by the one market process during the overlapping time  
interval;

causing the one market process to send an instruction related to the order to a  
representation process that responds thereto by sending a corresponding instruction related to the  
order to the other of the market processes to prevent a duplicate pairing of the order by the other  
of the market processes; and

in response to preventing a duplicate pairing of the order, completing the pairing of the  
order that previously was conditionally paired by the one market process,

wherein the representation process [[that]] is configured to communicate with each of the  
at least two market processes and provide a communication conduit between the at least two  
market processes for synchronizing processing of an order that is simultaneously available for  
execution pairing by the at least two market processes during the overlapping time interval, and

wherein the buying and selling trading processes are computer software processes that are  
executing on the same computer system as the market processes, and

wherein a pairing of orders by one of the at least two market processes causes the one  
market process to send an instruction related to an order in the pairing to the representation  
process which responds thereto by sending a corresponding instruction related to the order to the  
other of the at least two market processes to prevent the order from simultaneously being paired  
by the other of the at least two market processes.